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DEPT PASS MARAD, FMC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING,

MAY 16-18, 1977

1. MEETINGS OF THE MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (MTC) WERE HELD MAY 16-18. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE AGENDA WITHOUT CHANGE AND PROCEEDED TO ELECT OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT YEAR. CHAIRMAN JANNSSEN OF THE NETHERLANDS WAS REELECTED WITH VICE-CHAIRMAN POSTS BEING GIVEN TO BANK (U.S.), VOSS (SWEDEN) AND PLYTZANOPOLIS (GREECE). THE COMMITTEE ALSO SELECTED NORMAN (CANADA) TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL WORKING GROUP. THE RECORD OF THE MTC NOVEMBER, 1976 SESSION RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE.

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE LISTING OF PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING POLICIES ENCOUNTERED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TOOK PLACE, WITH THE OUTLINE SUBMITTED BY BUREAU BEING GENERALLY ACCEPTED. SEVERAL CHANGES WERE MADE, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF "BULK TRADE PROBLEMS" UNDER ITEM V(B) (THIRD TRADES) OF THE BASIC ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN DAF/MTC/77.7, AND

THE CHANGING OF THE TITLE OF ITEM V ITSELF TO "DIFFI-CULTIES WITH STATE TRADING COUNTRIES". THE LATTER CHANGE WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE SUGGESTION OF U.S. DEL AFTER THE COMMITTEE HAD BOGGED DOWN ON THE INTERPRETA-TION OF THE TERM "CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES". U.S. DEL ALSO SOUGHT ELIMINATION OF PARA 30 OF DAF/MTC/77.7, ENTITLED "UNILATERAL REGULATION BY TECHNOLOGICAL REQUI-REMENTS" ON GROUNDS THAT IT INVOLVED A MATTER PROPERLY UNDER IMCO JURISDICTION AND NOT APPROPRIATE FOR OECD DISCUSSION. THE U.S. WAS SUPPORTED BY SWEDEN AND FRANCE, ALTHOUGH FOR VARYING REASONS, AND THE PARAGRAPH WAS DELETED. THE TITLE "DIFFICULTIES WITH OPEN REGISTRY COUNTRIES", LISTED AS ITEM VI OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED BASIC ANALYSIS WAS CHANGED TO "DIF-FICULTIES WITH FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE COUNTRIES". COMMITTEE ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANDARD SHIPS RECOMMENDING TO COUNCIL THAT IT RECOMMEND THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDERTAKE TO COMPLY WITH EXISTING RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

3. AFTER A CANDID DISCUSSION REGARDING FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE VESSELS, THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE HAD BEEN MOST USEFUL. IT ALSO AGREED THAT SINCE THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THESE VESSELS WERE OF A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL NATURE, THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE MTC AND ITS GENERAL WORKING GROUP. SINCE THE TASKS GIVEN TO THE AD HOC GROUP WERE COMPLETED, HOWEVER, IT WAS DECIDED TO ABOLISH THE GROUP. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 4. THE FRENCH DEL (LEONARD) REPORTED ON THE WORK OF THE INTRA-SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE(WHICH HE HAD CHAIRED) SEE SEPTEL. WITH RESPECT TO AGENDA ITEM 8, SHIPPING POLICY MATTERS, THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PORTUGAL'S DECREE LAW 75-U/77 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OECD NATIONS. FRANCE REPORTED ON ITS TALKS WITH THE IVORY COAST AND THE U.S. WAS QUERIED BY SWEDEN REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT. A REPORT OF THE LATEST US-USSR TALKS WAS GIVEN BY THE US DEL AND STATISTICS RELATING TO THE THIRD-FLAG CARRIAGE OF GRAIN IN THE TRADE WERE PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE.
- 5. IN A DISCUSSION OF STATE TRADING COUNTRIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6 THE U.K. AND FRG DELS CITED PROBLEMS WITH BESTA LINE IN THE EUROPE/EAST AFRICA TRADE AND THE FORMER QUERIED U.S. DEL REGARDING STATUS OF THE BAKKE/ AVERIN AGREEMENT. US DEL RESPONDED THAT CHAIRMAN

BAKKE, CITING THE SLOW PACE SET BY SOVIETS IN BRINGING ANTICIPATED STABILITY TO TRADES, HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS RECONSIDERATION OF A LEGISLATIVE

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SOLUTION. REPORTS ON SOVIET SHIPPING ACTIVITIES WERE ALSO GIVEN BY SWEDEN AND JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND. U.K. DEL QUERIED U.S. DEL REGARDING STATUS OF U.S. SHIPPING REGULATIONS CONCERNING TRADE WITH CUBA AND U.S. DEL RESPONDED WITH SUMMARY OF CURRENT APPLICABLE REGULATIONS. THE JAPANESE DEL INQUIRED OF U.S. DEL STATUS OF US-CHINA SHIPPING RELATIONS AND WAS GIVEN SHORT BRIEFING.

6. A REPORT ON THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING SESSION HELD IN GENEVA, APRIL 11-22 WAS GIVEN BY VARIOUS DELS WHICH WERE PRESENT IN GENEVA. QUESTIONS CONCERNING GROUP B PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD AD HOC GROUP ON GENUINE LIRK WERE REFERRED TO THE WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FOR MANNER IN WHICH ASSIGNMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED BY THE

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GROUP B COORDINATOR.

7. THE NEXT SESSION OF THE MTC WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER 1977, WITH A NEWLY SCHEDULED INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL WORKING GROUP SET FOR JULY 19-20.

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